

**ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey
Board of Directors Meeting
March 19, 1997
Executive Directors Report**

Victoria Foundation - As it was mentioned at the last Board meeting, the Victoria Foundation will be providing financial support to the Newark School District of 1 million dollars annually for the next 4 years. The Victoria Foundation is very interested in seeing families play a more active role in the educational development of their children. Recently, a meeting was held with the Program Officer of Victoria Foundation to discuss ASPIRA's proposal. During the meeting I discussed the APEX program. The Program Officer agreed with me that the program can play a vital role in the development of Latino families in Newark. A letter was sent to Catherine McFarland requesting a meeting to discuss APEX and funding opportunities.

Action Required: Identify a Board Member to attend the meeting with Ms. McFarland.

Partnership in Philanthropy: Attached is a copy of the written assessment report prepared by our PIP Consultant Rick Reiss. This document can be modified. A date needs to be determined for Mr. Reiss to make a full presentation to the Board.

PIP workshop of "Writing for Dollars" is scheduled for April 8 in New Brunswick. Attached is a description of the all day workshop. Board members interested must be identified to register for the workshop.

Action Required: 1) Schedule a meeting date for Rick Reiss to make full report to the Board.

2) Identify Board members who can attend the "Writing for Dollars" workshop.

Rutgers University- Renaming of the Puerto Rican and Hispanic Caribbean Studies Department.

The Puerto Rican and Hispanic Caribbean Studies Department of Rutgers University is currently considering a name change to the department. According to the Department Chairperson Dr. Pedro Caban, students of non-Puerto Rican decent have inquired about the possibility, he stated that fewer Puerto Ricans register for these classes, and that the demographics at Rutgers has changed and that many more other Latino groups attend Rutgers. It appears that from the existing faculty within the Department that they wish to drop the "Puerto Rican" from the current name. Attached is a letter drafted to be sent to the Dean of Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers regarding ASPIRA's position.

Action Required: Board approval of the letter and its contents.

Fiscal Office/Software Installation and Training

The MIP Accounting software program was purchased and installed into the fiscal office's computer. Ms. Candy Vidal of the ASPIRA National Office has begun a two day technical assistance visit with Grace Merez that will end on 3/20. The most difficult process with the MIP will be the inputting of all the data that is currently on the General Ledger. The MIP will have the ability to generate reports and basic fund accounting procedures.

Judge for the 1997 Philip E. Hoffman Human Relations Essay Competition. This year the topic that students will write about is English Only. See attached flyer.

Executive Director's Activities:

February 20-21, 1997 - Hispanic Association of Higher Education Annual Conference. Served as a panelist on the forum: Pipeline to the Future: Our Students from Kindergarten through Higher Education.

February 22, 1997 - ASPIRA Executive Committee Meeting

February 25, 1997 - Meeting with Representatives from the UFW and AFL-CIO re: California Strawberries.



February 28, 1997 - The ASPIRA Parents for Educational Excellence Program Graduation. Thirty four parents received certificates of accomplishments for attending 8 or more workshops.

March 6, 1997 - Attended a forum at Rutgers University on the name change issue of the Puerto Rican and Hispanic Caribbean Studies Department.

March 10, 1997 - Rutgers College EOF Advisory Board Meeting.

March 11, 1997 - Meeting with the Victoria Foundation

March 12, 1997 - Visits to the American Jewish Federation facilities and programs.

March 13, 1997 - Attended lunch meeting sponsored by the Department of Community Affairs with Commissioner Waldman on New Jersey Welfare Reform.

March 18, 1997 - Attended Annual United Way of Essex and West Hudson Meeting.

Upcoming -

March 20, 1997 - Meeting with Automatic Data Processing

March 21, 1997 - Meeting at Robert Woods Johnson Foundation to discuss Tobacco and Alcohol use in the urban centers.

March 21, 1997 - Co-Sponsorship of La Gringa through the Essex County Latino CBO Collaboration and the Newark Public Schools. Play will be held at Rafael Hernandez School.

March 24, 1997 - Jersey City Community Development Block Grant Breakfast meeting.

March 26, 1997 - NJ EOFPA Student Awards Luncheon

April 5, 1997 - Students to attend taping on Hispanic Horizons - CH9

April 9, 1997 - Meeting with Mitch Darer from NJIT Computer Assistance program.

May 8, 1997 - 11th Annual Statewide Youth Conference - College of New Jersey